

STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR TOPSOIL

Definition

Placement of topsoil over a prepared subsoil prior to establishment of permanent vegetation.

Purpose

To provide a suitable soil medium for vegetative growth. Soils of concern have low moisture content, low nutrient levels, low pH, materials toxic to plants, and/or unacceptable soil gradation.

Conditions Where Practice Applies

This practice is limited to areas having 2:1 or flatter slopes.

For the purpose of these Standards and Specifications, areas having slopes steeper than 2:1 require special consideration and design for adequate stabilization. Areas having slopes steeper than 2:1 shall have the appropriate stabilization shown on the plans.

Construction and Material Specifications

Topsoil salvaged from the existing site may be used provided that it meets the standards as set forth in these specifications.

Topsoil Specifications - Soil to be used as topsoil must meet the following:

1. Topsoil shall be a loam, sandy loam, clay loam, silt loam, sandy clay loam, loamy sand. Other soils may be used if recommended by an agronomist or soil scientist and approved by DPS. Regardless, topsoil shall not be a mixture of contrasting textured subsoils, and shall contain less than 5 % by volume of cinders, stones, slag, coarse fragments, gravel, sticks, roots, trash, or other materials larger than 1 1/2 " in diameter.

The subsoil shall be tilled to a minimum depth of 6 inches before placement of topsoil.

Where the subsoil is either highly acidic or composed of heavy clays, ground limestone shall be spread at the rate of 4-8 tons/acre (200-400 lbs per 1000 sq ft) prior to the placement of topsoil. Lime shall be distributed uniformly over designated areas and worked into the soil.

Topsoil shall be tested and amended as per soil test recommendations.

Topsoil Application.

1. When topsoiling, maintain needed erosion and sediment control practices.
2. Topsoil shall be uniformly distributed in a 4-8 inch layer and lightly compacted to a minimum thickness of 4 inches. Any irregularities in the surface resulting from topsoiling or other operations shall be corrected in order to prevent the formation of depressions or water pockets.
3. Topsoil shall not be placed while the topsoil is in a frozen or muddy condition, when the subsoil is excessively wet or in a condition that may otherwise be detrimental to proper grading and seedbed preparation.